COUNTY COUNCIL OF ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY LISA D. B. Rodvien Sixth District

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 209/SB 313

Plastics & Packaging Reduction Act * February 2020

I write today in support of the Plastics & Packaging Reduction Act, introduced by Del. Lierman and Sen. Augustine. This bill would ban plastic bags from distribution by stores at the point of sale and require stores to charge at least 10 cents for each paper bag or reusable carryout bag for sale.

This legislation is especially important in Anne Arundel County due our 550 miles of shoreline:

- It will help keep the Chesapeake Bay clean, which is critical to our local economy
- It will protect Bay species who become entangled in plastic bags or mistake them for food

Furthermore:

- It will ensure that consumers only pay for what they need if they do not need a paper bag, they will not need to buy one
- It will hold retailers harmless so that they continue to operate and expand food access to all neighborhoods, including under-resourced neighborhoods
- It will save residents, local governments, and businesses money spent on clean up and trash disposal

Finally:

- Plastic bags can take more than 1000 years to biodegrade: in the meantime they break into microscopic pieces that contaminate our soil and waterways and ultimately our food supply
- Plastic bags are difficult to recycle

Thank you for considering this legislation. I urge a favorable report.